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# THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877



## 180<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Baptist Convention

### Messengers elect Broome to first term

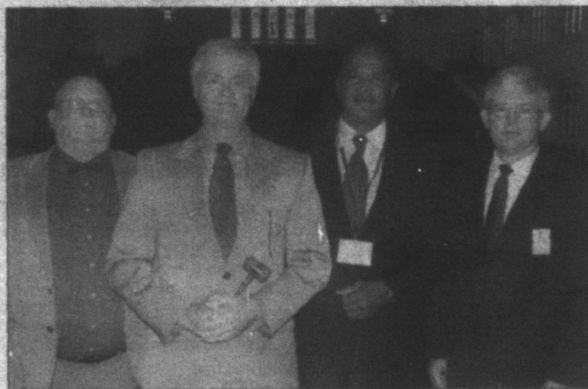
By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Messengers to the 2015 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) on Oct. 27-28 at First Church, Jackson, elected a new president, heard the first reading of a proposed constitutional amendment that will be voted on by messengers to the convention's 2016 annual meeting, and approved a 2016 Cooperative Program budget of over \$1.5 million dollars.

A total of 882 messengers registered for the annual meeting, a slight decline from the 896 messengers who registered for the 2014 annual meeting.

Doug Broome, senior pastor of First Church, Natchez, was elected without opposition to his first term as MBC president. He replaces Matt Buckles, senior pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, who served two terms as president and was not eligible for reelection. Broome has served on a number of MBC committees and is chairman of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Reelected without opposition to second terms were first vice-president Gary Wyatt, pastor of North Morton Church, Morton, and second vice-president Larry Young, pastor of Spangle Banner Church, Pace. Young's first term as second vice-president



**NEW OFFICERS** - Mississippi Baptist Convention officers elected by messengers to the 2015 annual meeting of the convention Oct. 27-28 at First Church, Jackson, include (from left) Gary Wyatt, pastor of North Morton Church, Morton, first vice-president; Doug Broome, senior pastor of First Church, Natchez, president; Larry Young, pastor of Spangle Banner Church, Pace, second vice president; and Jerry Bingham, missions director for Benton-Tippah Association in Ripley, associate recording secretary. Not pictured is Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, recording secretary. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

last year marked the first time in MBC history that an African-American was elected to a convention-wide office.

Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church in Olive Branch, was reelected without opposition as recording secretary. Jerry Bingham, missions

director for Benton-Tippah Association in Ripley, was reelected without opposition as assistant recording secretary. The positions of recording secretary and assistant recording secretary are not term-limited.

Messengers also heard the first reading of a proposed amend-

ment to the MBC Constitution put forward by the convention's Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. The proposed amendment reads, "Article III, Doctrinal Guidelines. The doctrinal guidelines for the Mississippi Baptist Convention shall be 'The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.'"

According to Section VII of the MBC Constitution, proposed amendments must be given at the annual meeting of the convention of the immediately preceding year, published in the MBC Annual and The Baptist Record, and then voted on by messengers at the annual meeting of the following year. Thus, the proposed amendment will be voted on by messengers to the 2016 annual meeting.

Messengers adopted a 2016 Cooperative Program budget of \$31,522,005, an increase of \$237,438 (.76%) over the 2015 Cooperative Program budget. Support for Southern Baptist Convention causes such as the mission boards and theological education will total \$11,741,947, an increase of \$166,657 (1.44%), representing 37.25% of the total 2016 Cooperative Program budget.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their

(ABOVE) PRAISE TO GOD - The combined choirs of First Church, Summit; Highland Colony Church, Madison; Cartersville Church, Petal; and the William Carey University Chorale from Hattiesburg were joined by the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra for praise and worship at the Oct. 27 evening session of the 2015 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Honor our veterans

**O**n Wednesday of next week we will observe Veterans Day, an annual nationwide tribute to America's military veterans. They are our sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, and beloved friends, and the country has not always appreciated their efforts. However, we are free today because of their sacrifices.

As our Armed Forces struggle in our stead even today against the forces of tyranny and enslavement that are so often grounded in religious fanaticism and would take away our freedoms — not the least of which would be our freedom of worship — it is therefore fitting to follow the example of our forebears and pause to remember the people involved in securing those freedoms.

Problem is, Veterans Day for many Americans has become just another day to take off work and immerse ourselves in some self-absorbed activity, while giving little thought to the day's significance. It shouldn't be that way, so perhaps a brief history of this important observance is in order. The following is condensed and paraphrased from the web site of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

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We take too lightly the sacrifices of our veterans and their families. Too many of us are too far removed from such sacrifices ourselves to really appreciate what they have done, and are doing, for us.

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Christians, of all people, should be ashamed to act that way. If not for the sacrifices of these men and women throughout the history of our country, we would have no freedom to worship God in openness and without fear. We would be severely limited in our ability to evangelize the world (if we could do so at all). We would be defenseless and persecuted everywhere.

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# Platt: Be patient as IMB returns to financial health

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Addressing a live audience that tuned in using more than 1,500 separate electronic devices, Platt reiterated the IMB's need to reduce by 600-800 its total number of field personnel and staff in light of spending \$210 million more than Southern Baptists have given since 2010.

Reserve funds and proceeds from property sales made up the difference, he said, and no debt was incurred.

Despite the sobering financial report, Platt said the future of Southern Baptist missions is not "a dismal picture."

"I want to reframe" negative prognostications "based on reality," Platt said. "When I think about [the] SBC, I don't think decline. Yes, we've got challenges in the culture we're in and when it comes to reaching people in the culture and seeing them baptized... At the same time, know this: the global witness that God is providing the nations through the SBC right now is nothing short of awesome."

He expressed appreciation that "churches" giving to the IMB through Lottie Moon [Christmas Offering for International Missions] and Cooperative Program actually increased over the last couple of years." Platt's goal, he said, "is in no way to shame the churches and say, 'If you just gave more, we wouldn't have to do this.'"

Still, as the IMB downsizes its missionary force through a voluntary retirement program and other voluntary resignation options, Platt answered questions submitted via Twitter and Facebook about how local churches can help improve the organization's financial situation. Among the questions:

■ "How would you advise our church to consider its missions budget allocation in light of the IMB needs?"

Platt replied, "I would encourage your church... to give sacrificially for the spread of the Gospel to the nations and specifically for the spread of the Gospel to people who have never heard it, and I hope that your church sees IMB as a valuable partner in seeing that happen."

■ "I struggle because I feel like our local church should send teams, not just give money. How do we balance?"

Platt noted that giving and sending teams should be a "both/and" proposition rather than an "either/

or" scenario. "Send money and send people," he said. "As more people are going out from churches to get the Gospel to the nations, then more people are going to want to give to see more people going out to get the Gospel to the nations. If people aren't going out and people are just sending money, there's a disconnect."

■ "Has any thought been given to changing the funding model of IMB missionaries?"

Platt said he hopes some IMB missionaries will be "totally self-funded," travelling overseas as students in international universities, business professionals employed by corporations, and retirees funded by their own savings and U.S. government programs.

He also raised the possibility of fully-funded IMB church planters expanding to a mobilization model where business professionals on their church planting teams "begin to pull together" and "actually begin to support the full time church planter much like we support a pastor here."

Another possibility is for churches to utilize the IMB's existing GC2 (Great Commission Global Connect) and SBC Direct programs to fund specific missionaries outside traditional cooperative funding channels.

"I know as soon as I mention that, there are a lot of questions that come up just along the lines of what does that do when it comes to Cooperative Program or Lottie Moon or your giving? We have closely monitored that. The churches that are sending people through those pathways have actually increased their giving to the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon as they've sent more missionaries, so we want more churches to be sending more people," he said.

Every method of funding IMB missionaries should be consistent with a model that "bolsters and fuels the cooperative giving that goes on among Southern Baptist churches," Platt said, "and I'm convinced there's a way to do that. We've just got to think wisely through it."

Platt closed by requesting prayer for the IMB family and the churches it serves. He asked Southern Baptists to help returning missionaries by providing extra houses, vehicles, and jobs.

Giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, he said, is one important step Southern Baptists can take to help the IMB.

"I want to see less missionaries coming off the field, more missionaries getting the Gospel to the nations in the days ahead," Platt said.

To view a recording of the live stream event, visit [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org) and click on David Platt live stream replay.



**RAISING SUPPORT** — Members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention are playing a leading role in encouraging churches to increase support for the International Mission Board, which has announced cost-cutting measures in the wake of revenue shortfalls over the past several years. (BP photo)

## Exec. Comm. standing behind International Mission Board

**NASHVILLE (BP and local reports)** — Since adopting a resolution in September pledging to "encourage and lead" churches to "give more than ever before through the Cooperative Program," at least 17 of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's members have already recommended increases in Cooperative Program (CP) giving at the churches where they are members.

The proposed increases are intended to help the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., which has announced that revenue shortages have forced the missionary-sending agency to bring home some missionaries and cut the budget in other vital areas.

According to reports sent by Executive Committee (EC) members to chairman Mike Rountt, proposed increases range from .2 percent to two percent of church budgets, though not all reporting members stated their recommendations as a percentage of undesignated receipts.

Rountt told Baptist Press (BP) that even at churches where a CP increase is not possible for the upcoming budget year, EC members "continue to use their influence to lead their congregations in exemplary missions giving."

The average CP gift from churches of EC members in 2013-14 was 7.6% of undesignated receipts, 2.1 percentage points higher than the SBC average of 5.5% for the same period.

If every Southern Baptist church had given through CP at the level of the average EC member's church, the IMB

**"I believe that is the beauty of CP. Our IMB missionaries don't have to raise support. They can focus on sharing the Gospel in some of the darkest parts of the world."**

**Rolland Slade**  
pastor of Meridian Church in El Cajon, Ca.

alone would have received approximately \$67 million in additional income for 2013-14, according to BP's calculations.

Executive Committee member David Hamilton, pastor of West Heights Church in Pontotoc and former two-term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, told BP the West Heights Church staff will recommend a one percentage point budget increase in CP giving for 2016-17, bringing the congregation's gifts through Southern Baptists' unified program of supporting missions and ministries in North America and around the globe to 14.6% of the church's undesignated receipts.

West Heights Church also will likely give an additional gift through CP in 2015-16 equivalent to one percent of its undesignated receipts.

When Rountt challenged EC members "to step up to the plate and take the lead" in CP giving, Hamilton said, "I know there were other members in there, but I personally felt he was talking directly to me and that I needed to step up and take the lead with our church."

Executive Committee member Rolland Slade, pastor of Meridian Church in El Cajon, Ca., told BP he is asking the congregation to increase CP giving by one percent of the budget each year for the next five years "to get back to the level we were at two years ago before the downturn in the economy."

"I do feel some responsibility as an EC member to lead Meridian to step up, but it is more than that," Slade said. "As a former [North American Mission Board] missionary, I personally know what it means to be supported through CP..."

"I have fond memories and am thankful for Southern Baptists across this nation that allowed me to serve full time without worrying about raising support," he said. "I was able to concentrate on sharing the Gospel and ministering to the people that God put in front of me."

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Rountt, in encouraging continued sacrificial CP giving, reminded EC members in an Oct. 17 email of their "stewardship of influence."

Those who serve on the EC "have been given this sacred trust of" acting on behalf of the SBC while it is not in session, Rountt said. "By God's sovereignty, He has raised us up for such a time as this," a time to lead our denomination to a resurgence of Cooperative Program.

"In other words, the opportunity to stewardship of influence is an example for us to follow."



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or" scenario. "Send money and send people," he said. "As more people are going out from churches to get the Gospel to the nations, then more people are going to want to give to see more people going out to get the Gospel to the nations. If people aren't going out and people are just sending money, there's a disconnect."

■ "Has any thought been given to changing the funding model of IMB missionaries?"

Platt said he hopes some IMB missionaries will be "totally self-funded," travelling overseas as students in international universities, business professionals employed by corporations, and retirees funded by their own savings and U.S. government programs.

He also raised the possibility of fully-funded IMB church planters expanding to a mobilization model where business professionals on their church planting teams "begin to pull together" and "actually begin to support the full time church planter much like we support a pastor here."

Another possibility is for churches to utilize the IMB's existing GC2 (Great Commission Global Connect) and SBC Direct programs to fund specific missionaries outside traditional cooperative funding channels.

"I know as soon as I mention that, there are a lot of questions that come up just along the lines of what does that do when it comes to Cooperative Program or Lottie Moon or your giving? We have closely monitored that. The churches that are sending people through those pathways have actually increased their giving to the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon as they've sent more missionaries, so we want more churches to be sending more people," he said.

Every method of funding IMB missionaries should be consistent with a model that "bolsters and fuels the cooperative giving that goes on among Southern Baptist churches," Platt said, "and I'm convinced there's a way to do that. We've just got to think wisely through it."

Platt closed by requesting prayer for the IMB family and the churches it serves. He asked Southern Baptists to help returning missionaries by providing extra houses, vehicles, and jobs.

Giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, he said, is one important step Southern Baptists can take to help the IMB.

"I want to see less missionaries coming off the field, more missionaries getting the Gospel to the nations in the days ahead," Platt said.

To view a recording of the live stream event, visit [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org) and click on David Platt live stream replay.



**RAISING SUPPORT** — Members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention are playing a leading role in encouraging churches to increase support for the International Mission Board, which has announced cost-cutting measures in the wake of revenue shortfalls over the past several years. (BP photo)

## Exec. Comm. standing behind International Mission Board

**NASHVILLE (BP and local reports)** — Since adopting a resolution in September pledging to "encourage and lead" churches to "give more than ever before through the Cooperative Program," at least 17 of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's members have already recommended increases in Cooperative Program (CP) giving at the churches where they are members.

The proposed increases are intended to help the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., which has announced that revenue shortages have forced the missionary-sending agency to bring home some missionaries and cut the budget in other vital areas.

According to reports sent by Executive Committee (EC) members to chairman Mike Rountt, proposed increases range from .2 percent to two percent of church budgets, though not all reporting members stated their recommendations as a percentage of undesignated receipts.

Rountt told Baptist Press (BP) that even at churches where a CP increase is not possible for the upcoming budget year, EC members "continue to use their influence to lead their congregations in exemplary missions giving."

The average CP gift from churches of EC members in 2013-14 was 7.6% of undesignated receipts, 2.1 percentage points higher than the SBC average of 5.5% for the same period.

If every Southern Baptist church had given through CP at the level of the average EC member's church, the IMB

**"I believe that is the beauty of CP. Our IMB missionaries don't have to raise support. They can focus on sharing the Gospel in some of the darkest parts of the world."**

**Rolland Slade**  
pastor of Meridian Church in El Cajon, Ca.

alone would have received approximately \$67 million in additional income for 2013-14, according to BP's calculations.

Executive Committee member David Hamilton, pastor of West Heights Church in Pontotoc and former two-term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, told BP the West Heights Church staff will recommend a one percentage point budget increase in CP giving for 2016-17, bringing the congregation's gifts through Southern Baptists' unified program of supporting missions and ministries in North America and around the globe to 14.6% of the church's undesignated receipts.

West Heights Church also will likely give an additional gift through CP in 2015-16 equivalent to one percent of its undesignated receipts.

When Rountt challenged EC members "to step up to the plate and take the lead" in CP giving, Hamilton said, "I know there were other members in there, but I personally felt he was talking directly to me and that I needed to step up and take the lead with our church."

Executive Committee member Rolland Slade, pastor of Meridian Church in El Cajon, Ca., told BP he is asking the congregation to increase CP giving by one percent of the budget each year for the next five years "to get back to the level we were at two years ago before the downturn in the economy."

"I do feel some responsibility as an EC member to lead Meridian to step up, but it is more than that," Slade said. "As a former [North American Mission Board] missionary, I personally know what it means to be supported through CP..."

"I have fond memories and am thankful for Southern Baptists across this nation that allowed me to serve full time without worrying about raising support," he said. "I was able to concentrate on sharing the Gospel and ministering to the people that God put in front of me."

"I believe that is the beauty of CP. Our IMB missionaries don't have to raise support. They can focus on sharing the Gospel in some of the darkest parts of the world."

Rountt, in encouraging continued sacrificial CP giving, reminded EC members in an Oct. 17 email of their "stewardship of influence."

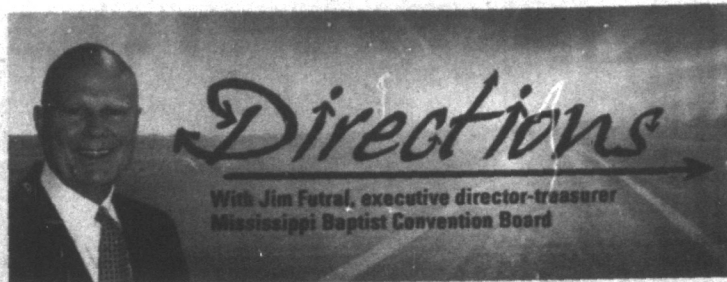
Those who serve on the EC "have been given this sacred trust of acting on behalf of the SBC while it is not in session," Rountt said. "By God's sovereignty, He has raised us up for such a time as this, a time to lead our denomination to a resurgence of Cooperative Program giving."

"In other words, we have the opportunity to exercise our stewardship of influence to set an example for our convention to follow."

In John 10:10, Jesus shares that He came to give us life more abundant. Everyone wants their life to be good, and filled with blessings and joy, great opportunities, and good outcomes. We desire that we be healthy, wealthy, wise, and full of energy, and of course not to have any issues that challenge us and make life testy or people who get around us with their sour, doom-and-gloom attitude. We want life to be good, but reality sets in and we discover that life is not always pleasant, peaceful, or perfect. In Ecclesiastes, the wise man Solomon writes in chapter 3 that there is a time to be born and a time to die. Then his long, descriptive aspects of life between birth and death lead us to understand that life has its ups and its downs.

When Jesus offered abundant life to His followers, it was not just offering them toys and trinkets, smiles and sunny days, all wins and no losses, all joy and no tears. No, abundant life is facing all of life, all of its circumstances, all of its issues, all of its crises, all of its celebrations in the strength and wisdom and guidance of God. Knowing Jesus enables us to face life regardless of what the moments may hold — whether prosperity or problems, plagues or plenty — He will be there to guide us and undergird us.

Several years ago I conducted a funeral for an outstanding man who was Chinese. He was an outstanding businessman, family man, and community and church man. In every aspect of his life, he was thoroughly Christian. Whether it was his walk or his talk, his thoughts or his relationships, he was seriously and clearly



## A Full and Meaningful Life

committed to Christ. After the funeral and following the burial at the cemetery, there were men from the family standing at the entrance to the cemetery as we were driving out. They were stopping every car and as people would roll their windows down, they were handing them something. When I got up to where they were I, along with those in the car with me, was given a piece of candy to which a coin had been taped.

With a smile and a word of encouragement, they said it was their family tradition and that as deaths occurred, as people would leave the celebration of life they were given these mementos: a coin and piece of candy with the encouragement being that they hoped the rest of our journey would be filled

with sweetness and prosperity. For years I have kept that little memento, neither spending the coin nor eating the candy, because the memories were far more significant than the symbols. I suppose all of us would wish for each other that every day and every way would be filled with sweetness and prosperity. What is the essence of the abundance that Jesus brings to life? Let me suggest three things where you can see Jesus at work in your life today.

**The first thing that will make life abundant is people.** Don't lose sight of people. God made people because He wanted to have fellowship with them. If it means something to Him, it certainly can mean something to us. Almost every day, regardless

of what else may be going on, I find a moment just to be marveled, blessed, and sometimes overwhelmed by the people who touch my life. Take the time each day to go out of your way to get to know someone new. Even more significantly, take the time to deeply appreciate an old friendship. People will bless your life.

**A second thing that will make life abundant is purpose.** You can have a good job, a fine family, and enjoyable activities and still not know a genuine purpose for living your life. Only the Lord can bring that about, and the only way you can experience that is to look to Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 are special verses for many people, because found in these verses is the fact that He will direct your paths. The Lord will bring about meaningful day-by-day plans and fulfillment. Trust Him. Look to Him. Live for Him.

**The third and most meaningful of all things to bring about abundant living is preparation.** The Scripture says in Amos that God announced to his people, "Prepare to meet thy God" (4:12). He told them to prepare, because you can be prepared — not just to die but to live. If you are not prepared to die, you probably are not prepared to live but that preparation can take place in a moment of time in an encounter with Jesus Christ, the Living Lord. Trust Him today and experience the wonder of His grace and the joy of the life that He will bring flowing into your heart.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## Just for the Record



The Sunshine Sunday School Class of **LIBERTY HILL CHURCH, POPE**, presented pastor Derrick Simmons with a handmade quilt. Shown with Simmons are Cathleen Brown and Robin Cotton.

**NEWHEBRON CHURCH, NEWHEBRON**, honored pastor Mike Grenn and his wife Wanda by giving them two handmade chairs and table made by Ronnie Jones for pastor appreciation. Shown are Grenn, Wanda Grenn, Jones, and his wife Teresa.



**FIRST CHURCH, MORTON**, recognized Barbara Ott, minister of music; interim pastor Don Lum, youth and children's pastor Jason Westmoreland, and (top) children's church leader Tim Jolly during pastor appreciation month Oct. 25.

**FIRST CHURCH, JACKSON**, sponsored a diaper changing station during the Mississippi State Fair Oct. 7 - 18. During that period 840 people took advantage of the service. Shown are some of the workers.





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# Two resolutions meet approval at 2015 MS Baptist Convention

## NO. 1 RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the 180th Annual Session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has again been the recipients of the kind hospitality of the First Baptist Church of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, we the messengers of the 180th Annual Session have been blessed, encouraged and challenged by the fellowship, worship, reports and have had the opportunity to conduct business as planned by the Committee on Order of Business, the institutions, and agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the Convention officers and committees:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that with hearts filled with gratitude we express appreciation to:

Rev. Bob Gladney, executive pastor; the staff, and members of First Baptist Church of Jackson,

The speakers, singers and instrumentalists who led us in worship during the convention,

Dr. Matt Buckles, our Convention President, who has led

for two years as president with a marvelous Christ-like spirit and has been an outstanding ambassador across Mississippi and far beyond,

And to all of the officers, members of all boards, trustees of all agencies and institutions, committee members, and volunteers, who have served this Convention faithfully.

## No. 2 RESOLUTION ON BOLD BIBLICAL LIVING

Whereas, the landscape of society has changed dramatically in our day and this moral reshaping has roots that reach all the way back to the Garden of Eden and the fall of humanity; and

Whereas, our churches are facing issues many never dreamed of and challenges many were not prepared to face.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the messengers of the 180th meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, do first and foremost repent of our sins; when we fail to love others the way we love ourselves; when we fail to stand

true and firm on the Word of God; when we fail to "serve the Lord with gladness"; when we fail to encourage and lift one another up; and

Be it further resolved that we commit ourselves to bearing the true witness of our faith just as the Lord Jesus himself taught us "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another," John 13:35; and

Be it resolved that we commit ourselves to standing with unwavering faith on the inerrant Word of God as our sole guide to faith and conduct; in which "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work," II Timothy 3:16-17; and

Be it finally resolved that we recognize that the restoration of Biblical values in the home, in our churches and in society will only come about by our total submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives, in our homes and in our churches.

# Female pastor leads to controversy

**LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn. (BP)** — A Middle Tennessee Baptist association has voted to withdraw fellowship from a congregation that called a woman as pastor. At issue, the association's requirement that cooperating churches adhere to the Baptist Faith and Message.

The Lawrence County Association of Baptists, located some 85 miles southwest of Nashville, voted 73-4 during its annual meeting Oct. 12 that Greater Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg "be removed from the list of participating churches... effective immediately," according to a copy of the recommendation provided to Baptist Press (BP) by the association.

After Greater Tabernacle called Shonda Reynolds Christian as pastor in June, "we asked them to reconsider," Lawrence Association director of missions Mike Kemper told BP. "They took two weeks, and they called us back and said, 'We have decided to keep our woman pastor.' So really, they made their own decision about that, knowing the consequences and knowing what would come."

About 10 Greater Tabernacle members were present for the discussion and vote, according to both the association and the church. Kemper said the Greater Tabernacle members did not vote or speak because the congregation "had failed to elect" them as messengers to the annual meeting.

Greater Tabernacle had not contributed financially to the association's work for at least six years before sending \$25 preceding the vote, Kemper said.

Greater Tabernacle's most recent contribution through the Cooperative Program was \$91 given in 2009, according to data compiled from the Annual Church Profile — data confirmed to BP by the Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC).

According to the TBC constitution, only churches that contribute through the Cooperative Program each year are considered "cooperating churches." Due to the church's lack of cooperative support, the TBC does not consider it in friendly cooperation, according to a TBC spokesperson. Church relationship questions with the Southern Baptist Convention are typically addressed leading up to or

subsequent to its annual meeting in June of each year.

WTVM News in Nashville reported Oct. 15 that the association "kicked out" the church. Kemper told Tennessee Baptists' Baptist & Reflector news-journal the television station's portrayal was inaccurate. The association "didn't cause this. The actions of the church led to this decision," he said.

Article I, Section III of the Lawrence Association's constitution states, "The statements of faith of this association, which shall be the basis of cooperation and fellowship, shall be the Baptist Faith and Message, a statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000."

Article VI of the BFM states, "While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."

Kemper told BP he believes Greater Tabernacle's own constitution also precludes the calling of a woman as pastor by stating I Timothy 3:1-7 "shall guide the church in determining the qualifications of the pastor" and by using masculine pronouns to reference the pastor.

## Just for the Record



The youth of **HIGH HILL CHURCH, NESHOBA COUNTY**, fed the Sebastopol Police Department in appreciation for their service.

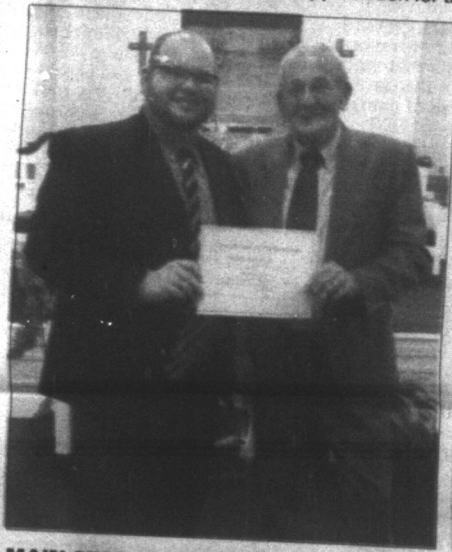
### In other Church News:

➤ **First Church, Vicksburg**, well exceeded their goal for the 2015 Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering by giving \$23,821.76. Kay Lee, WMU director.

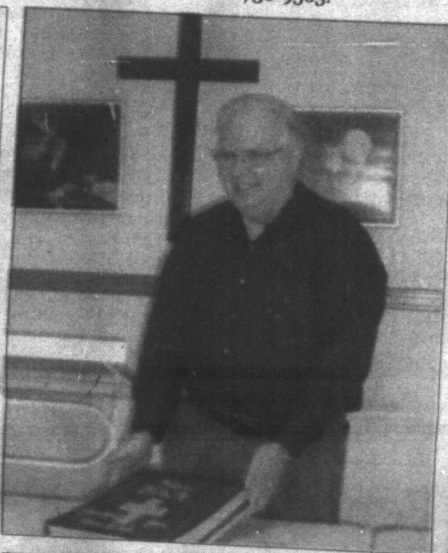
➤ **Goss Church, Columbia**, is hosting its 12th annual Blessing of the Hunt Nov. 12, Columbia Expo Center. Rick Burgess, featured speaker. Doors open 5 p.m. Free. For more information, call (601) 736-9563.



**FIRST CHURCH, MADISON**, held a ladies' night out Oct. 15 with the theme, America the Beautiful. Shown are Jane Bryan, Rene Lucas, Guy Hovis, guest speaker Andy Taggart, and Patsy Tolleson.



**MAIN STREET CHURCH, MENDENHALL**, ordained Bobby Quick as deacon Sept. 20. Shown are pastor Mark Jackson and Quick.



**FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, ABERDEEN**, showed its appreciation to pastor Rick Burton Oct. 21.



**PINEVIEW CHURCH, LAUREL**, held baptism services Sept. 6. Shown are Taylor Tidwell, pastor Tim Nelson, and Gary Dunn.



**MOAK'S CREEK CHURCH, LINCOLN COUNTY**, celebrated reaching their Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering goal. Shown are the RAs, GAs, and Acteens.



**CEDAR GROVE CHURCH, COLUMBIA**, surprised pastor Todd Sumrall, Mike Bennett, and Matthew Few for Pastor Appreciation Month.



**FIRST CHURCH, ITTA BENA**, observed pastor appreciation month in October. Shown is pastor Higdon Herrington with the Children in Action.



**BAY SPRINGS CHURCH, BAY SPRINGS**, ordained Shannon Sims as deacon Oct. 25. Shown are pastor Lee Yancey, Sims and his wife, and deacon chairman Ricky Ruffin.



# Greens under microscope as feds investigate

**NASHVILLE (BP and local reports)** — In a move that could raise suspicions of political intrigue, the conservative Green family owners of the Hobby Lobby craft chain are under federal investigation to determine whether they illegally imported Assyrian and Babylonian cuneiform tablets from Israel for display in the family's Bible museum, the Daily Beast web site reported.

The U.S. government confiscated a shipment of as many as 300 small clay tablets that were en route to Oklahoma, the Hobby Lobby headquarters, the Daily Beast reported, citing confirmation from Cary Summers, president of the Museum of the Bible set to open in 2017 in Washington, D.C.

"There was a shipment and it had improper paperwork — incomplete paperwork that was attached to it," The Daily Beast quoted Summers, adding that he hinted the items might have simply been held up in customs for the past four years because of the paperwork.

The Greens made national headlines in 2014 when they won a U.S. Supreme Court appeal against a key mandate of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, which would have required the Christian business owners to provide abortion-inducing contraceptives to employees through their health insurance.

The Supreme Court ruled that Hobby Lobby and other "closely held" companies could exercise their religious opinions and conscientiously object to the mandate. The ruling did not sit well with the Obama administration.

"Hobby Lobby is cooperating with the investigation related to certain biblical artifacts," Zack Higbee, corporate communications coordinator, told Baptist Press in written comments. "The Museum of the Bible is a separate not-for-profit entity made possible, in part, by the generous charitable contributions of the Green family."

The Association for Research of Crimes Against Art, ARCA, said in an Oct. 27 blogpost that the investigation is partly centered on Article 2.3 of the International Council of Museums Code of Ethics, which states, "Every effort must be made before acquisition to ensure that any object or specimen offered for purchase, gift, loan, bequest, or exchange has not been illegally obtained in, or exported from its country of origin or any intermediate country in which it might have been owned legally (including the museum's own country). Due diligence in this regard should establish the full history of the item since discovery or production."

The tablets, believed to have originated in Iraq, are described

on their FedEx shipping label as "hand-crafted clay tiles" valued at under \$300. The Daily Beast reported. Archaeological and ethnological imports defined as the "cultural property of Iraq" have been restricted within the U.S. since 1990, according to The Daily Beast.

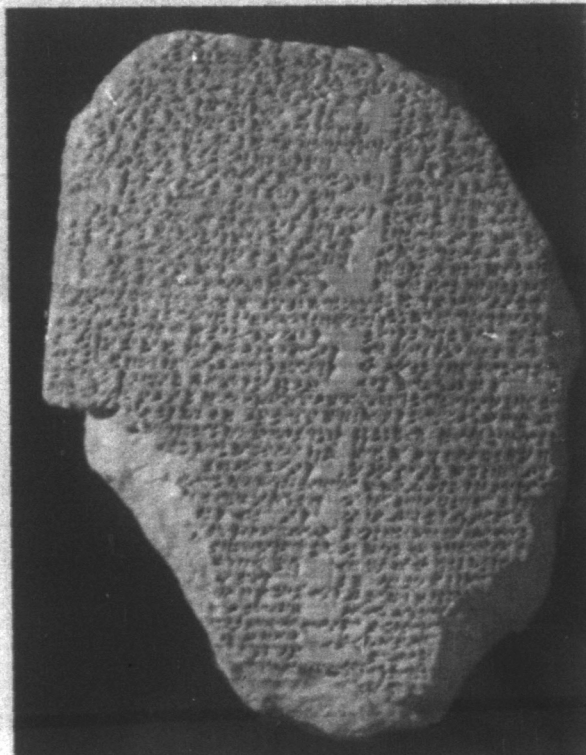
Hobby Lobby CEO Steve Green said he is unaware of any pieces in the collection having been obtained illegally, but couldn't rule out such a possibility, The Daily Beast reported.

"Is it possible that we have some illicit [artifacts]? That's possible," the Daily Beast reported Green as saying. If charges are filed, the Greens could be forced to forfeit the artifacts and pay a fine, according to reports.

The Museum of the Bible will allow visitors to explore the Bible's impact on world culture and modern civilization, including literature, fine arts, architecture, education, science, film, music, family, government, law, human rights, and social justice.

Archaeological and historic treasures, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient Torah scrolls, early New Testament texts, rare biblical manuscripts, and first-edition Bibles will be included, Summers has said of the museum.

"We've assembled the best in architectural, interior, and environmental design to provide Museum of the Bible guests with an experience that is unique, innovative, customizable to each visitor's level of interest and, most of all, memorable," Summers said in an earlier press release.



**INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY** — An artifact known as the Gilgamesh Cuneiform is among The Green Collection of biblical antiquities. The Greens, who own the openly Christian chain of craft stores named Hobby Lobby, are being questioned by federal authorities about the importation of similar cuneiforms for display at the Museum of the Bible. (BP photo courtesy of the Museum of the Bible)

## ERLC honors lifetime ministry of John Perkins



**MINISTRY HONORED** — John Perkins (right), longtime Christian advocate for civil rights and justice in his native Mississippi, receives the John Leland Religious Liberty Award Oct. 28 at Mt. Helm Church in Jackson from Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville. Moore, who grew up in Biloxi, characterized Perkins as "one of my heroes in the faith." (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

**JACKSON, Miss. (BP and local reports)** — To Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville, presenting an award to longtime Mississippi civil rights leader John Perkins was an opportunity to honor "one of my heroes in the faith."

Perkins received the John Leland Religious Liberty Award from Moore Oct. 28 during the Wednesday evening prayer service of Mount Helm Church in Jackson. Mount Helm, a member of the National Baptist Convention (USA), is Jackson's oldest historically African American church, having begun in 1835 on the premises of First Church, Jackson.

ERLC gives the Leland Award annually to a person who exhibits a deep commitment to religious freedom. The ERLC's board of trustees voted unanimously to honor Perkins with the award during its yearly meeting in September.

Perkins' "tireless advocacy

for Gospel-based racial reconciliation is prophetic work in our times," Moore, a Biloxi native, said in a news release announcing the presentation. "His life is a testimony to his conviction, and few have lived out the Gospel of reconciliation so fearlessly and boldly as he has."

Moore said he is "endlessly thankful for what Christ has accomplished" through Perkins for the Kingdom of God. Afterward, Perkins, age 85, called it an "amazing evening" on Twitter and thanked all those who "came to show their support."

A native of Mississippi, Perkins spread the Gospel while serving the poor and seeking racial reconciliation. He was a leader in the desegregation movement in Mississippi and, like many civil rights advocates of the time, was brutalized on a number of occasions. With his wife, he has founded various ministries — including the John and Vera Mae Perkins Foundation in Jackson — that focus on the Gospel, commu-

nity development, justice, and reconciliation.

Perkins was a keynote speaker in March at the ERLC Leadership Summit in Nashville entitled, The Gospel and Racial Reconciliation.

When the ERLC's trustees approved the award for Perkins, Moore said the recipient "has been fighting for religious liberty" for seven decades.

After the presentation ceremony, Moore preached and participated in a table-top discussion with Mount Helm pastor CJ Rhodes. He also took questions from the congregation.

Leland, the award's namesake, was a Baptist pastor in Virginia and Massachusetts in the late 18th and early 19th centuries who, Moore said, "couldn't keep himself out of jail" for preaching the Gospel without a license. A close friend of both Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, Leland was instrumental in securing religious freedom as part of the Constitution's Bill of Rights.

# Avoid new Muppets, Parents Television Council warns

**NASHVILLE (BP and local reports)** — The Parents Television Council (PTC) has criticized the newest version of the venerable Muppets television show because the first four episodes included a preponderance of sexual innuendoes and other offensive content not suited for children.

The new half-hour comedy featuring characters created by the late Jim Henson, a native of Leland, decades ago include adult-themed content every three minutes and 38 seconds, a PTC study found. The PTC joins another critic of the series, the morality watchdog group One Million Moms, in saying the show is not the kid-friendly offering it once was.

"It is a tragedy that one of the most iconic children's television shows in history, The Muppets, would be so filled with adult content — sexual innuendoes, sexual references, drugs and alcohol, to be exact — that it would become too toxic for children," PTC President Tim Winter said in a news release. "Our research shows that The Muppets isn't a show for kids, yet it was supposedly created for families to watch together."

The characters, headlined by Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog, haven't been featured in a series in 17 years. The series is espe-

cially cunning because it features characters that appeal to children but casts them in adult story lines, the groups said.

Family blogger Michael Foust agreed. "We live in an age where nearly every so-called 'children's movie' contains adult dialogue and inappropriate language, so it's not surprising that ABC is pushing the envelope with a Muppets series catered to adults," Foust told Baptist Press, "but, for once, I wish one broadcast network or one Hollywood studio would make a major decision based on common decency instead of the almighty dollar."

"ABC claims it has warned families about the adult content, but what it fails to grasp is that children are naturally attracted to puppets and that parents will naively let their kids watch it, assuming it is the mostly innocent show of their youth."

He called The Muppets "filthy mouthed," and said his children are not allowed to watch. "Just as our society long ago rejected candy cigarettes, it's time that we push back against cartoons and puppets that sneak adult content into our children's minds."

The show slid in the Nielsen ratings, garnering 1.3% of viewers for its Oct. 13 episode,



**MUPPETS UNSUITABLE** — The new ABC television series The Muppets features the original characters but the storylines are not suitable for children, the Parents Television Council found in a study of the first four episodes of the show.

Nielsen reported, but the PTC said many children still watch the show.

"Make no mistake, children are inherently attracted to The Muppets, and over a million young children are watching the program each week," Winter said. "No matter how 'edgy' ABC or the show's producers want to make The Muppets, kids still reasonably believe the show is for them."

"We urge the network and everyone involved with this program to re-think the dangerous direction of this program and in the meantime, we urge parents to be warned about letting their children watch The Muppets."

One Million Moms (1MM) called for a boycott of the show before it debuted Sept. 22. "1MM suspects there are going to be a lot of shocked moms and dads when they discover that the family-friendly Muppets of the 1970s are no more. No subject is off limits in ABC's Muppet Show aimed at a mature audience, and it is not suitable for family viewing," 1MM said on its website.

"Children will not enjoy this perverted humor on topics they are far too young to comprehend or understand. ABC has ruined The Muppets by introducing adult subjects to children. How many adults will

want to tune in to watch The Muppets, only to end up having an embarrassing conversation with their children?"

Among the findings in the PTC study titled, An Examination of Iconic Children's Characters Delivering Adult-Themed Content:

■ Most of the adult-themed content referenced sex, alcohol or drugs. Forty-six percent referenced sex and 54.5% referenced alcohol or drugs.

■ Just over 72% of all alcohol and drug references aired in episodes three and four.

■ Eighty percent of all the sexual content that aired in the first two episodes was in the form of sexual innuendoes, sexual references, and anatomical references.

■ The iconic characters Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy delivered nearly half of all sexual content discovered in the study.

Simple numbers don't reveal the total picture, PTC said. For instance, a bar scene in the fourth episode was counted as one instance, but was lengthy enough to consume almost one-quarter of the show's screen time, the study found. The scene showed the muppets becoming intoxicated by drinking beer, wine, and hard liquor, PTC said.

## DAVID PHELPS *Christmas Concert*



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## COUNTY WIDE RENEWAL

6:30 P.M.  
NIGHTLY

**NOV. 15  
SUNDAY**

**MAGEE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

PREACHER: Bro. Jay Westbrooks (Corinth)  
WORSHIP LEADER: Lance Word (Magee, FBC)

**NOV. 16  
MONDAY**

**POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**

PREACHER: Bro. Andy Gipson (Gum Springs)  
WORSHIP LEADER: Nolan Bishop (Magee, FBC)

**NOV. 17  
TUESDAY**

**HARRISVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

PREACHER: Bro. Jimmy Errington (New Zion)  
WORSHIP LEADER: Steele Cockrell (New Zion)

**NOV. 18  
WEDNESDAY**

**MENDENHALL FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

PREACHER: Bro. Jonathan Burnham (New Bethlehem)  
WORSHIP LEADER: Jason Sullivan (Macedonia)

**NOV. 19  
THURSDAY**

**CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH**

PREACHER: Bro. Johnny Sykes (AMD)  
WORSHIP LEADER: Clark Walker (Beulah)



# BIBL i00i PHER

UDE KZEVIDE YTZEY ZE ZF ZBGIFFZUAX  
EI GAXTFX VZB: YIO VX EVTE SIBXEY EI  
RIW BDFE UXAZXJX EVTE VX ZF, TCW  
EVTE VX ZF T OXKTOWXO IY EVXB EVTE  
WZAZRXCEAM FXXQ VZB.  
VXUOXKF XAXJXC: FZL

Clue:  $U = B$

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts 1:7

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## CONVENTION

cont. from p. 1

undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.

David Eldridge, senior pastor of First Church, Clinton, preached the convention sermon. Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, was the keynote speaker at the closing session of the annual meeting. Waylon Bailey, senior pastor of First Church, Covington, La., provided the Bible Treasures series of devotionals.

Praise and worship were provided by:

- Warren Association Choir (First Church, Woodland Church, and Highland Church, all in Vicksburg).
- Mississippi Singing Churchmen.

- Sanctuary Choir of First Church, Clinton.

- Combined choirs of First Church, Summit; Highland Colony, Madison; Carterville Church, Petal; and the William Carey University Chorale.

- Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra.

- The Cooperative Program Singers, an ensemble of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board employees.

Two resolutions proposed by messengers and presented by the Resolutions Committee were approved by messengers. Resolution No. 1 was titled "Resolution of Appreciation," and offered thanks to the staff and members of First Church, Jackson, for hosting the meeting, along with appreciation for the speakers, singers, instrumentalists, outgoing MBC President Matt Buckles, and others "who have served this Convention faithfully."

Resolution #2, proposed by messenger Carl White, senior pastor of Highland Church, Meridian, and titled, "Resolution on Bold Biblical Living," stated,



**MOORE IN MISSISSIPPI** — Russell Moore (left), president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, talks with Hugo Villegas (right) and his wife after Moore preached the closing message of the 2015 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson, on the morning of Oct. 28. Hugo is pastor of Iglesia El Buen Pastor in Forest. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**BCV REPORT** — Matt Buckles (left), outgoing president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, introduces Rory Lee, executive director of the Baptist Children's Village (BCV), for the BCV report to messengers attending the 2015 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on the morning of Oct. 28 at First Church, Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

"[We] recognize that the restoration of Biblical values in the home, in our churches and in society will only come about by our total submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives, in our homes and in our churches."

The Time, Place, and Preacher Committee announced that

Larry LeBlanc, senior pastor of First Church, Summit, will preach the 2016 convention sermon. Smokey Gibson, senior pastor of First Church, Biloxi, will serve as the alternate preacher. The 2016 MBC annual meeting will be held Nov. 1-2 at First Church, Jackson.

## Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

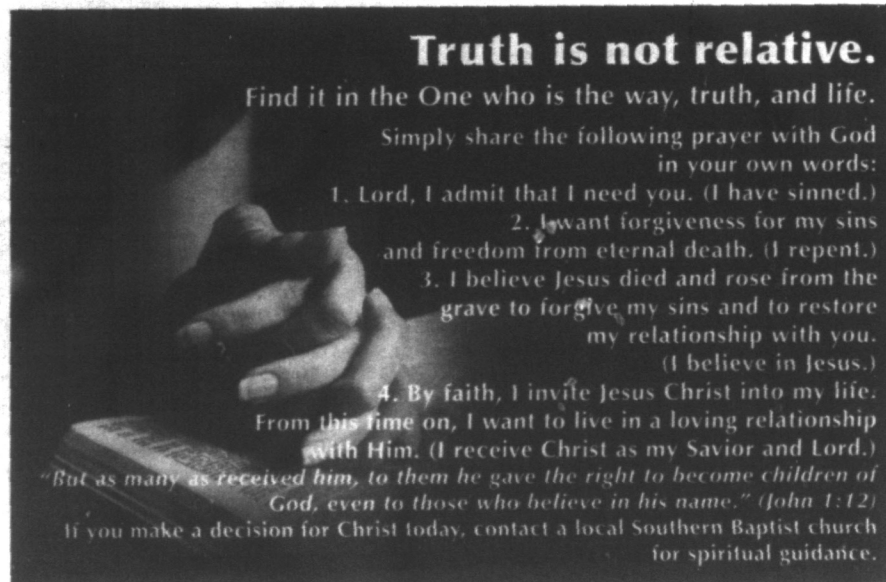
Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



**Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director**  
P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242  
[www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com)

## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**SEPTEMBER 16-30, 2015**

### MEMORIALS

Gladys Gist  
FBC Indianola  
Margaret Gladden  
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Kyle  
Andy & Iris Glidewell  
Cotton & Jackie Weatherbee  
Clytee Hamill  
Mrs. Joseph A. Hall  
Mr. Jimmy Hodge  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mr. Jimmy Hogan  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Sandra Slaughter Hottovy  
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Kyle  
Ethel Ivy  
Mr. & Mrs. F. L. Robbins  
Mrs. Jo Beth Janoush  
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Kyle  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean  
Steve Johnson  
Heritage Luncheon Club  
Marion (Cotton) Johnston  
Dr. & Mrs. William H. Meyer  
Minnie Jones  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Ronald Jones  
Concord BC  
Mr. Wallace Kimball  
Daniel, Dianne & Alissa Smith  
Mrs. Kathryn Langston  
Mr. & Mrs. David Doss  
Mr. Billy Latham  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean  
Rev. Luther F. Lindsey  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Duraj  
Annell Lofton  
Concord BC  
Mr. Mitch Lundy Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack McRee  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Gore, III  
Dr. Raymond Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Thomas

Mrs. Augusta Mason  
Ms. Margaret Clark  
Mr. Jack Maxey  
Patricia & Annie Pearl Triplett  
Lee McCarty  
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Kyle  
Lisa Catherine McGee  
Mr. & Mrs. John Logan  
Mr. Johnnie McKenzie  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton  
Mr. Aubrey Nicholson  
Rev. James A. Breland  
Mr. Milton Pickle  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Hazel Pipkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Howard  
William Prestridge  
Hedgesville Elementary School  
Mr. Bobby Reed  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton  
Peter A. Saway  
Mrs. Johnnie W. Brock  
Glenn Simms  
John & Regenia Davis  
Mary Frances Ladner  
Daniel & Kaly Davis  
Everette Sims  
Mrs. Loree Newsom  
Richard Smith  
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald J. Hasselman  
Roger Dale Smith  
Betty Crosby  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Maggio, Jr.  
Gerald Stanford  
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Kyle  
Pam Steele  
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Bruton  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Potter  
Jeanne Stevens  
Ms. Becky Avis  
Sherrie Stofor  
Charlotte Vickers & Family  
Mrs. Lorena Stuart  
Mom and Dad  
Scott, Selena and Family  
Darren, Mary and Family

Mrs. Neva Jean Summerlin  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mr. Ed Threet  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mrs. Lula Waggoner  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean  
Mr. Ted S. Warren  
Mr. Oliver N. King  
Mr. Cecil Washington  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Waldrup  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean  
Mr. Jimmy Watson  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean  
Mrs. Mabel Oswald Weeks  
Mrs. Carolyn Johnston  
Charles Wheeler  
Mr. & Mrs. David M. Hoffman  
Mr. Eddie Wilkinson  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
E. D. & Martha Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Waldrup  
Mrs. Lorine Williams  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mrs. Margaret Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. David Ellington  
Mr. William Williamson  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Victor Wilmoth  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Mr. Ross Wingo Sr.  
Helen Smiley

**OCTOBER 1-15, 2015**

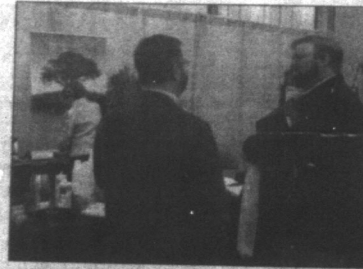
### HONORS

David & Carolyn Price  
Mrs. Sarah C. Scott

**OCTOBER 1-15, 2015**

### MEMORIALS

Ann Gartrell Anderson  
Carolyn Johnston  
Elton Beard  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan  
Ms. Rachel Beard  
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Breland  
Mr. Dewey Blackledge  
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts  
John Bunch  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack McRee  
Vera Yzelle Cothorn  
Carroll & Sandra Polk  
Mrs. Fredna Huff Crumpton  
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Tillson  
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts  
Ms. Judy H. Lacy  
Olivia Parks SSC, FBC Raleigh  
Chester & Charlotte White  
Corrine Damico  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Simmons  
Virginia Estelle Douglas  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Tillman  
Barbara Brock  
Glenna Watkins  
Harold "Buck" Dwyer  
Arlington Heights BC  
Richard Hamric  
E. J. Grisham Family  
Robert Grisham Family  
Drew Harrington  
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wooley  
Wendy Champion Hood  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion  
Raymond Lavelle Hughes Sr.  
Morrison Heights BC  
Mrs. Dorothy Miller  
Mrs. Era Self  
Code 3 Services, LLC  
Mrs. Peggy Johns  
Woodmen of the World,  
Lodge 40  
Mrs. Kathryn Langston  
Barry, Kim & Ben Lenard  
Betty Jo Leggett  
Ms. Louise McCaskell  
Charlene Rickard Luse  
Reece & Martha Douglas  
Deanie McCullough  
Mrs. Donna Harris



Thank you to all who stopped by The Baptist Children's Village booth at the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Baptist Church Jackson, Mississippi, October 27-28, 2015. (Clockwise from top left) Rev. Justin Knight and Rev. Dennis Ellingburg stopped by to visit with BCV staff; Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director visits with Heath Hilman, Rev. Tom Washburn, David Holloway, and Rev. Curtis Ferrell; and Rev. Grant Stegall; Celeste Cade, BCV Public Relations Manager; and Rev. Clay Stegall pose together after a visit at The BCV booth.

Robert Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Withers  
Mrs. Walterine K. Myers  
Mrs. Faye Robertson  
Jeanette Newell  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Calcote  
Marie O'Quinn  
Mr. & Mrs. Lavan B. Seales  
J. V. and Mary K. Parker  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Parker  
Mrs. Martha Patrick  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Green  
Mr. Alfred E. Phillips  
Springfield BC

Bernie Phillips  
Kirk Vandevender  
Mrs. Mary R. Polk  
Springfield BC  
Charles Jason Powell  
Woodman of the World,  
Camp 1361  
Elizabeth Robertson  
Mrs. Mera C. Hall  
Etoile Scott  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick  
Ms. Ireta W. Graham  
Mr. Cry Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Percy J. Peeler

Mrs. Patsy Speights  
Mrs. Allene Holloway  
Mary Catherine Spurgeon  
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Breland  
Mrs. Sumerall  
Bovina BC  
Mr. William Curtis "W.C." Sumrall  
FBC Choir, Houston  
FBC Houston, Joy SSC  
Mr. Joseph B. Parker  
Mrs. Angela Weaver  
Andrea Tynes  
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wooley

## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).



## Where Wickedness Rules • Genesis 18:20-25, 19:12-1

The Lord suddenly came to see Abraham, who was thrilled to host the Lord. If the Lord showed up at your house, would you be glad to see Him? What would you be ashamed for Him to see? Abraham welcomed Him and prepared the Lord a meal. Notice that Abraham recognized the Lord, for he had spent time with Him. That's the only way we recognize His voice or hand in our lives. Jesus said in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me," (KJV). God then told Abraham that in a year he would have a son.

As the Lord prepared to leave, He shared with Abraham that He would soon destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for their sinfulness. Abraham interceded for the cities, knowing that his nephew Lot was there. He knew Lot had a wife, two daughters, and many servants. Maybe he did some quick math in his head, and asked if God would spare the cities if fifty righteous lived there. Eventually, Abraham got the Lord to agree that He would spare the cities if only ten righteous souls lived there, but he knew from the Lord's reply there not even ten.

From this text we see that the presence of the righteous would have stayed the hand of God from judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. I believe that, were

it not for about ninety million Americans who claim to be born again, God would have severely demonstrated His displeasure with this country for the horrendous sin of abortion. We slaughtered over 57 million babies since 1972. No army can stay the hand of God, but a few righteous can intercede for the ungodly.

From this story we also learn that God judges all sin, though He had waited for repentance.

God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance," according to the 2 Peter 3:9, (KJV).

God, however, defines sin, not us. The world's view of sin ever changes, but God's word will stand forever (Isaiah 40:8). The main sin of Sodom was homosexuality. God called that sin an abomination in Leviticus 20:13, and vile affections in Romans 1:26. His view has not changed. This may not be politically correct in today's culture, but it is and will always be biblically correct.



### Explore the Bible with Rick Henson

So the Lord sent His messengers to warn Lot in Genesis 19. He was not glad to see them, as Abraham had been. He asked them to leave soon and told them they were in danger. Odd that Lot was comfortable with Sodom's sin but knew God's angels would not be. Lot was sitting at the city gate when they arrived, which meant he was a leader in that city. Lot may have been righteous, but he tolerated unrighteousness, though he hated it. 2 Peter 2:6-7 reads, "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes

condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly; and delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked," (KJV). In 1611, the word conversation meant conduct, so Lot detested their actions, though not enough to leave Sodom.

The angels told Lot to round up his family. He warned the two men engaged

to his daughters of the impending doom and they thought he was telling them a joke (Genesis 19:14). Obviously Lot kept his righteousness to himself. If you went to work or school tomorrow and told your fellow workers or students about Jesus, would they think you were joking, or would your righteous life support your words?

God rained down fire upon these two cities. Only Lot and his two daughters escaped. His wife disobeyed and looked back, so was turned into a pillar of salt. God is serious about obedience.

God is also serious about sin. In these two chapters in Genesis we see God's judgment and His mercy: mercy toward the righteous and judgment toward the ungodly. 2 Corinthians 5:21 reads, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him," (KJV). God does not excuse sin as if it never happen. He paid for it, for His holiness demands a price. Jesus' death was the price for our sins. Jesus is coming again. Will you be glad to see Him like Abraham, or frightened like Lot?

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

## Live Humbly • Daniel 4:28-35

The book of Proverbs is full of convicting statements that often hit us right between the eyes. Character flaws such as anger, prejudice, dishonesty, and laziness are sprinkled throughout the book, pointing out things to guard against. One of the main ones — and it's certainly not limited to this section of Scripture — is pride. "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall", Proverbs 16:18 (NIV) warns readers. Peter was cocky with it, and a cock's shrill crow signified his humiliating fall (Mark 14:27-31). Acts 5:1-10 relates the story of Sapphira and Ananias, who, wanting to impress fellow members of the early church with their generosity, paid the ultimate penalty for their prideful deception. King Herod failed to acknowledge God when his subjects praised him, and he, too, met a horrible fate (Acts 12:19-23). And in a summary of seven things the Lord hates, (Proverbs 6:16-19), a proud look tops the list.

Clearly, God seriously denounces arrogance and egotism, and today's lesson deals with yet another example of his take on the subject. Let's look at the latest escapades of Nebuchadnezzar, king of the massive Babylonian empire. After conquering all his rivals and building Babylon into a city of incredible grandeur, the kingdom experienced a time of peace and prosperity. However, God

wasn't pleased with the powerful king's lifestyle, and began disturbing his sleep, as he had done about 30 years earlier (see Daniel 2). Perplexed and alarmed by the dream, Nebuchadnezzar called for Daniel to interpret the night vision.

Scripture tells us that Daniel, upon hearing the king's account of the dream (4:10-17), was disturbed (v.19). When he understood the interpretation, he told the king, "if only the dream applied to your enemies, and its meaning to your adversaries" (v. 19). The massive tree the dream depicted detailed depicted the king himself. The messenger coming down from heaven was described as a "holy one" (vs. 13 and 23), who commanded the tree to be cut down, but for the stump and roots to remain. The dream then switched focus from a tree to a person (again, the king), who would be driven away from others, living as a wild animal, until he acknowledged "that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men..." (v. 25). Daniel advised the king to renounce his

wickedness, and in so doing, perhaps his prosperity would continue (v. 27).

Either Nebuchadnezzar temporarily heeded his servant's concerned plea, or God delayed his judgement, because twelve months passed without the dream coming to fruition (v. 29). One day, however, as the mighty ruler surveyed the city's splendor, he began regaling his accomplishments, and praising himself instead of the Lord who had enabled them. While "the words were still on his lips" (v. 31), a voice from heaven let him

know in no uncertain terms that he was facing an abrupt lifestyle change. As the dream foretold, Nebuchadnezzar was driven away from people, and lived as an animal, eating grass and being subject to the elements (v. 33). His hair and his nails grew grotesquely while being unattended. This state lasted until "seven periods of time" (v. 32 HCSB) passed. After this prolonged period, the king looked toward heaven and his "sanity was restored" (v. 34 NIV). What a

change that produced! "Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever," the king testified (v. 34). He fully recognized God's supremacy, his ability to do whatever he wishes, and that no one is able to prevent his plans from succeeding (vs. 34-35). The king was then returned to the glory of his kingdom, where he "became greater than before" (v. 36). Nebuchadnezzar quickly followed that statement with one of praise to God, recognizing his just actions and his ability to humble those with prideful hearts (v. 37).

Being a Christ-follower God involves humility. It's one of the marks of a true believer. Jesus modeled this attribute when he stooped to wash his disciples' feet (John 13:2-7).

In the book of James, the writer shows us steps to defeat our pride and pursue the God-honoring path of humility. First, we must submit to God (James 4:7). After this, we can resist the devil (v. 7). Then we are to draw near to God (v.8). Next, we must confess and forsake our sin (v. 8-9), and finally, humble ourselves before the Lord (v. 10).

Philippians 2:1-4 also lists actions we must take. Verses 5-11 show our perfect example — the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ann Maniscalco is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ocean Springs.

### Bible Studies for Life with Ann Maniscalco



driven away from people, and lived as an animal, eating grass and being subject to the elements (v. 33). His hair and his nails grew grotesquely while being unattended. This state lasted until "seven periods of time" (v. 32 HCSB) passed. After this prolonged period, the king looked toward heaven and his "sanity was restored" (v. 34 NIV). What a

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Evansville Church, X-tended missions network:** Homecoming, Nov. 8, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Jim Futral, speaker; Albert Wilkerson, pastor.

► **First Church, Stonewall:** Revival, Nov. 8 — 11; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. — Wed., 7 p.m.; Neal Holden, speaker; Lee Robinson, music.

► **Macedonia Church, Meridian:** Homecoming, Nov. 8; service followed by covered dish lunch; Ted Dukes, speaker; Paul Bird, music; Virgil Walters, pastor.

► **High Hill Church, Neshoba County:** Revival, Nov. 8 — 11; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.

— Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Duncan, speaker; Mike Barker, music; Don Cook, pastor.

► **First Church, Nettleton:** Homecoming and revival, Nov. 8 — 11; Voices of Mobile, Sat., Nov. 7, 7 p.m.; homecoming, Sun., 10:30 a.m. with Matthew Johnson, speaker, and Voices of

Mobile, music, followed by fellowship; Mon. — Wed., Forrest Sheffield, speaker; Kelly McGinnis, music.

► **Horseshoe Church, Tchula:** Homecoming, Nov. 8; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Larry Kilgore, speaker; Mike Steen, pastor.

# Divorces devastate families, but also churches

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Before a divorce, churchgoers in troubled marriages look a lot like their happily married counterparts at church: participating, serving, and leading at similar rates, a new study shows.

After a divorce, the differences can be stark. Twenty percent have dropped out of church entirely. In many cases, their children have stopped attending too. A third give less to the church than they did before. Their churches report leadership voids and fractured relationships.

Yet pastors may have difficulty helping couples save their marriages, because churchgoers on the brink of separation often keep quiet at church about their marital woes.

Those are among the findings of new research by LifeWay Research, an arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. The study sponsored by Focus on the Family surveyed Protestant pastors, churchgoing Americans in healthy marriages, and churchgoing Americans who divorced in the past five years.

The research points to a problem with church culture, said Scott McConnell, LifeWay Research vice president. If couples are unwilling to discuss marital struggles at church, they don't get the help they need, he said. Many couples also may not realize help is available. While most pastors say their churches offer counseling referrals and other marriage aids, fewer churchgoers agree.

"Either pastors are overstating what they're doing or not everybody is noticing what their church is doing," McConnell said. "There are clearly gaps in communication when people don't even know help exists."

## Divorce in the church

Divorce is a widespread issue for Protestant churches. Forty percent of pastors say at least one couple in their church separated or divorced in the past year. Yet among regular churchgoers — defined as those who attend once a month or more — church involvement offers few clues to distinguish troubled marriages from healthy ones.

Three months before their separation, seven in 10 regular churchgoers who divorce are attending church once a week or more. For those in healthy marriages, the rate is 87%.

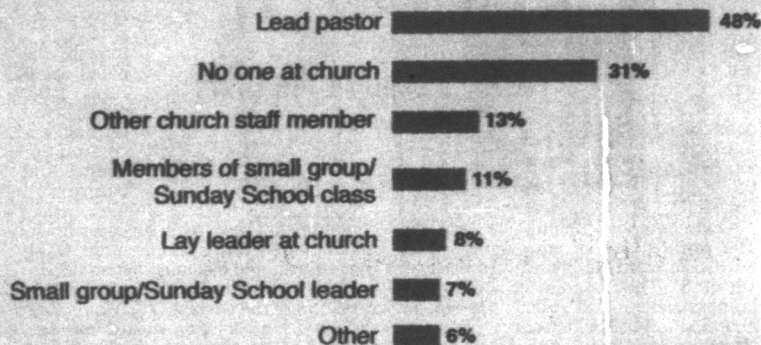
The two groups also report similar levels of involvement in small groups at church (46% for those who divorce vs. 41% for those in healthy marriages), serving in community ministries (34% vs. 31%), and positions of responsibility at church (39% vs. 45%).

"Many of the people who end up divorcing are average churchgoers," McConnell said. "You're not always going to see it coming."

## MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

### Who do couples seek for help with marital problems?

AMONG CHURCHGOERS WHO DIVORCED



Note: Respondents could select all that apply.



LifeWayResearch.com

He noted one exception — regular churchgoers whose spouses do not attend. Eighteen percent of those who divorced say their former spouses never attended church three months before their separation. In contrast, just two percent of those in healthy marriages say their spouse never attends.

"It is courageous and often uncomfortable for a married individual to attend church alone, but it is also an indicator they're going two different directions in their lives," McConnell said.

## Effects of divorce

After divorce, eight in 10 still look like average churchgoers. They may switch churches, but they're as involved as ever. Twenty percent, though, no longer attend church and the loss among their children is even higher. Among those with children who attended church before the separation, 35% say at least one child no longer attends.

Nearly half of those who divorce (47%) leave the church they attended before their separation. Rarely will former spouses remain at the same church after a divorce (10%), McConnell said. He suggested helping spouses find new places to worship so they don't step away from church entirely.

A third of those who divorce (32%) say they give less to their local church than they gave before their separation. More than a quarter of this group stops giving at all.

Pastors say the repercussions of divorce affect others as well. Thirty-one percent say divorce has fractured other re-

lationships in the church, and 16% say it created leadership voids. About one in 10 say divorce has hurt the church's reputation, halted its momentum (10%), or disbanded an adult small group or Sunday school class (nine percent).

"The vast majority of churches do not have an effective marriage ministry," said Greg Smalley, vice president of Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Co. "In fact, most pastors are so busy doing other things, they often don't consider the negative impact failed and mediocre marriages have on the mission of their church."

"The church should be the number one distribution center for healthy marriages because of its unique role. Eighty percent of marriages began in church, giving the church a unique opportunity to build a relationship with couples that can last throughout their marriage."

## Culture of silence

Nearly eight in 10 churchgoers — and 94% of pastors — say their church is a safe place to talk about marital difficulties.

Experience, however, tells a different story. Among those who divorced, only 48% discussed their marriage problems with the lead pastor. Even fewer talked to anyone else, such as another staff member (13%) or a member of a small group or Sunday School class (11%).

Thirty-one percent told no one — a troubling sign of church culture, McConnell said.

"If churches are dogmatic and not realistic about relationships, then those who have trouble in

their marriage are never going to tell anybody," he said. "That's a wake-up call to the church."

## Offering support

Pastors say their churches offer a wide range of marriage support services, including resources such as books and videos (77%) and referrals to professional counseling outside the church (75%).

Many churchgoers, however, seem unaware of the services. Just 38% of those in healthy marriages and 21% of those who divorced are aware their church offers books and videos about marriage. Thirty percent of those in healthy marriages and 23% of those who divorced think their church refers people to outside counselors.

Churches can be more effective by being more proactive, McConnell said. He pointed out that two-thirds of pastors say their church has no lay leader responsible for marriage ministry, and 43% have no written plan.

"As much as churches already do things to help with marriage, there is still a huge opportunity to do more and to do it better," he said. "I think the typical pastor would check the box and say, 'We're already doing this.' And yet when we look deeper, there's so much more that could be done."

Deeper involvement by churches is critically important, Smalley said. "While the impact is not always immediate and obvious, nothing can negatively affect a church's ministry and mission, and thwart future health, more than hurting marriages and divorce."

## Methodology

The online survey of individuals who are divorced was conducted July 23-Aug. 21, 2015. The survey was sponsored by Focus on the Family. A demographically balanced sample from a national online panel was used. Quotas and slight weights were used to ensure the sample being screened matched national totals for gender, age, ethnicity, region, and education. This sample was screened to include only adults who have been divorced within the past five years and who attended worship services at a Christian church once a month or more three months prior to separating from the former spouse. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 3.8%. This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting. Margins of error are higher in subgroups.

The online survey of individuals who are in healthy marriages was conducted July 23-28, 2015. A demographically balanced sample from a national online panel was used. Quotas and slight weights were used to ensure the sample being screened matched national totals for gender, age, ethnicity, region and education. This sample was screened to include only married adults who attend church once a month or more and whose responses to the Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale were Very Satisfied or Extremely Satisfied for all three questions. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus four percent. This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting. Margins of error are higher in subgroups.

The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted July 15-29, 2015. The calling list was a stratified random sample drawn from a list of all Protestant churches with phones. Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister, or priest of the church called. Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 3.2%. Margins of error are higher in subgroups.